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REMARKS ON SHARKS TAKEN IN GREAT SOUTH BAY.

During the past years the writer has made several trips on Great South Bay, Long Island, from Babylon with Mr. Edwin Thorne in pursuit of ground sharks (*Carcharhinus*). The most successful day's hunting he has experienced was on July 27, 1916, when five female *Carcharhinus milberti* from 6 ft. 1 in. to 6 ft. 11 in. in total length were taken. As the five sharks lay together on deck some individual variation was evident. One of them had a distinctly long caudal, one was notably heavy, another, the most aberrant of the five was slender. It differed from the others slightly in color, the under surface of the pectoral terminally having an ill-defined dusky blotch, rather than being shaded with the color of the upper parts as in them. In the jaw of this specimen the re-entrance in the lateral margin of the upper teeth comes to a sharper apex. The dermal denticles under the microscope are essentially the same, but with ridges slightly less sharp. These differences are too slight to be of specific value. All five had the proportionate length of the dorsal and pectoral similar, the dorsals in the predorsal length 1.6 to 1.7 times, pectorals in the same 1.15 to 1.3. Second dorsal and anal were of approximately the same size and nearly apposed, the anal very slightly in advance in all but one in which the second dorsal was slightly in advance. The anal was of the same form throughout, bilobed, the anterior lobe rounded. In the water the sharks looked brownish grey to my eye, although their appearance varies considerably according to whether they are seen against light or dark bottom, on deck mostly grey-blue above.

It is remarkable that whereas the female sharks taken by Mr. Thorne have all been *C. milberti*, five of the seven males taken in six years have been *C. obscurus*. One of these was taken on August 3, 1916, and examined by the writer on the following day.

It had a considerably smaller dorsal than female *C. milberti*, proportionately longer lower caudal lobe, and the second dorsal was noticeably more advanced than the anal in position. The head was strikingly blunter and more rounded than in female *C. milberti*, as well as the fish being of heavier build. The jaws and teeth are much larger than those of female *C. milberti*.

Mr. Thorne had made the following measurements of this male shark, made along the curve (except total length). Total length 8 ft. 1 in.; head and body along the back, 6 ft. 1 in.; dorsal fin, from snout, 2 ft. 6 in.; dorsal from base of tail, 2 ft. 9½ in.; length of front of dorsal, 1 ft. 2½ in.; top of caudal, 2 ft. 1½ in.; front of pectoral fin, 1 ft. 9 in.; pectoral, from snout, 2 ft.; ventrals from snout, 4 ft. 1 in.; circumference at root of tail, 1 ft. 1½ in.; at front of dorsal, 4 ft. 4⅛ in.; at eye, 2 ft. 5 in.; eye to snout, 8¼ in.; mouth to snout, 6 in.

On August 29, 1916, a male *C. milberti* was taken of which Mr. Thorne made the following corresponding measurements: Total length, 6 ft. 6 in.; head and body, along the back, 5 ft. 2 in.; dorsal fin, from snout, 2 ft.; dorsal from base of tail, 2 ft. 5 in.; length of front of dorsal, 1 ft. 1 in.; top of caudal, 1 ft. 7 in.; front of pectoral fin, 1 ft. 5½ in.; pectoral, from snout, 1 ft. 7½ in.; ventrals from snout, 3 ft. 6 in.; circumference at root of tail, 9½ in.; at front of dorsal, 2 ft. 8 in.; at eye, 1 ft. 8 in.; eye to snout, 6½ in.; mouth to snout, 5 in.; weight, 121 lbs. Mr. Thorne further informs me that this fish resembled the females of *C. milberti*, except that it seemed slightly lighter in color, and differed from the males of *C. obscurus*. Its eyes were pale yellowish in color like female *C. milberti* and like a male *C. limbatus* which he has taken, whereas the eyes of males of *C. obscurus* are dark brown.

J. T. NICHOLS,
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